

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LILONG 00757 231302Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 H-01 EB-08 SP-02 EUR-12

INR-10 PM-05 /064 W

-----087559 231339Z /42 S

R 231238Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1902

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LILONGWE 0757

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, MI, US

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT BANDA

1. FOLLOWING IS AMBASSADOR STEVENSON'S SUMMARY OF HIS CALL:

2. ON MAY 20 I PAID THE CUSTOMARY FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT BANDA AT SANJIKA PALACE IN BLANTYRE. BANDA WAS RELAXED AND CORDIAL AND, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, SPOKE WITH ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THE WARMTH OF HIS RECEPTIONS AT NASHVILLE, WILBERFORCE AND BLOOMINGTON. HE SPOKE APPRECIATELY OF THE CALL MADE ON HIM BY SECRETARY VANCE AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PRESIDENT CARTER WAS IN COLORADO "OR SOMEPLACE OUT WEST" AND THEREFORE COULD NOT RECEIVE HIM. HOWEVER, FROM VARIOUS ASIDES AND INNUENDOS, HIS KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT AT NOT MEETING OUR PRESIDENT WAS MOST EVIDENT. HE MENTIONED REPORTS HE HAD RECEIVED THAT THERE MIGHT BE DEMONSTRATIONS OR PROTESTS DIRECTED AT HIM AND SCORNFULLY OBSERVED THAT "NOTHING, NOTHING" HAD OCCURRED. ON THE CONTRARY, "I WAS GIVEN A HERO'S WELCOME". HE WAS PLEASED THAT CONGRESSMAN DIGGS HAD CALLED ON HIM AND SAID DIGGS HAD BEEN FRIENDLY AND UNCRITICAL AND THAT HE HOPED THEY NOW HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LILONG 00757 231302Z

EACH OTHER.

3. ON THE LOCAL SCENE BANDA IS ABSORBED IN AND PROUD OF PLANS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION IN JUNE BY SECRET BALLOT. FROM 3 TO 7 (SIC) CANDIDATES WILL STAND FOR EACH SEAT AND HE TOLD ME WITH A CHUCKLE THAT SEVERAL OF HIS MINISTERS ARE "VERY UNEASY" AS THEY WILL

HAVE OPPOSING CANDIDATES. HE SAID HIS ROLE IN APPROVING THE LISTS IS, AS PARTY CHAIRMAN, TO CERTIFY THEIR BONAFIDES AS PARTY MEMBERS AS STIPULATED IN THE CONSTITUTION. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, HE EMPHATICALLY ASSERTED THAT ALL CITIZENS WHO REGISTER CAN VOTE WHETHER BLACK, WHITE, COLORED OR ASIAN.

4. RE PEACE CORPS, I FOUND HIM NOT WELL INFORMED ON THE LATEST EFFORTS BUT CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE. WE DISCUSSED AGAIN THE QUESTION OF MATURITY AND HE AGREED THAT AGE IS NOT NECESSARILY THE DETERMINING FACTOR BUT WE MAY YET HAVE TROUBLE ON THIS SCORE.

5. BANDA SPOKE WITH SATISFACTION OF HIS RECEPTION BY THE WORLD BANK AND SAID HE WAS TOLD THERE THAT MALAWI IS THE "ONLY SOLVENT STATE IN AFRICA". HE SPOKE CONFIDENTIALLY OF THE FACT THAT THE GOM "ALREADY THIS FISCAL YEAR HAS A ONE MILLION KWACHA SURPLUS".

6. RE MOZAMBIQUE, IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION HE SAID MAPUTO HAD PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT HE HAD NOT YET AGREED "IN PART BECAUSE OF THE COST INVOLVED AS WE WOULD WANT TO HAVE A FULL EMBASSY STAFF THERE". HE INDICATED THAT WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN QUITE SATISFACTORY AND THE MAPUTO MINISTER AT THE RECENT MEETING ON AREA TRANSPORTATION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LILONG 00757 231302Z

LUSAKA (MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA TRANSPORT MINISTERES) HAD SPOKEN AT SOME LENGTH IN PRAISE OF MALAWIAN COOPERATION AND EFFICIENCY. RE THE SEIZURE OF A TANKER ON LAKE MALAWI, HE HAS NO CRITICISM OF MOZAMBIQUE AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME THING HIMSELF. THE DUTCH SKIPPER HAD BEEN DRUNK AND ABUSIVE. HE EXPECTS SOON TO SEND BACK THREE SMALL BOATS BROUGHT TO MALAWIAN SHORES BY REFUGEES FROM MOZAMBIQUE IN RETURN FOR WHICH HE EXPECTS THE TANKER WILL BE RELEASED.

7. RE ZAIRE, HE IS GLAD WE ARE GIVING SUPPORT TO MOBUTU AS THE INVASION IS CLEARLY THE WORK OF THE SOVIETS.

8. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED WILL BE COVERED BY AIRGRAM. IT WAS A VERY FRIENDLY LAST CONVERSATION. I DO NOT THINK BANDA WILL LET HIS EVIDENT FEELING OF DISSAPOINTMENT AT NOT MEETING THE PRESIDENT GO BEYOND THAT.
SHEINBAUM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LILONG00757
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780217-0427
Format: TEL
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780530/aaaaayrz.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 45980799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2607246
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT BANDA
TAGS: PDIP, MI, US, (BANDA, H KAMUZU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/45980799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014